

REMARKS

Claims 1-13, 18-21, and 26 had previously been canceled. Claims 14-17 and 22-25 had previously been allowed. The present amendment reinstates the subject matter of previously elected and examined claims 10 and 12, as new claims 27 and 28. However, newly-presented independent claim 27, which corresponds to former claim 10, now recites that the heat-resistant filler is added with synthetic bentonite.

Claims 10 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of KASHIMA et al. 6,152,453. The Official Action of September 3, 2003 concluded that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art as a matter of design choice to have modified the admitted prior art by utilizing a synthetic mica filler as a selection of a known material based upon its suitability for the intended use as evidenced by KASHIMA et al.

Reconsideration of the above rejection is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

With the additional recitation in new claim 27 that the heat-resistant filler is added with synthetic bentonite, the outstanding 35 USC §103 rejection is believed overcome, because the addition of synthetic bentonite enables the aqueous solution to cause the thixotropic phenomenon, as is mentioned in the specification on page 4, lines 30-32.

It is respectfully submitted that this characteristic feature is neither disclosed, nor suggested by the admitted prior art, alone, or in combination with KASHIMA et al.

Since claim 28 depends from an otherwise allowable independent claim 27, it is likewise believed patentable by virtue of this dependency.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, therefore, it is believed that this application has been placed in condition for allowance. An early indication of allowability with respect to claims 14-17, 22-25, and 27-28 is accordingly earnestly solicited.

In the event that there are any questions relating to this amendment or to the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney concerning such questions so that the prosecution of this application may be expedited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

Application No. 10/087,770
Amdt. dated March 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 3, 2003
Docket No. 8035-1003

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional
fees required under 37 CFR \$1.16 or under 37 CFR \$1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



Benoit Castel, Reg. No. 35,041
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

BC/lk